Fibre Arrangement (MFA), outside the rules of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). With effect from January 1, 1995, the quantitative restrictions (import quotas) in the bilateral agreements under the MFA, are being governed by the Agreement on Textiles and Clothing (ATC) contained in the Final Act of the Uruguay Round negotiations of the GATT. Presently, our textiles and clothing exports face restraints in U.S.A., European Union and Canada.

One of the central elements of the Agreement on Textiles and Clothing (ATC) is the four-stage process for the progressive integration of textiles and clothing products as specified in the Annex to the ATC into GATT 1994 over a ten-year transition period. The integration process has however not led to any meaningful removal of quotas by the restraining countries so far. India has raised the issue of lack of progressive liberalization in international trade in textiles bilaterally and also at the World Trade Organization. In accordance with ATC, all the textile quotas would be phased out and textile sector fully integrated into WTO by 1st January, 2005.

(c) and (d) India is not maintaining any restriction on imports of textiles as no restrictions were being maintained by it under the former MFA on 31 December, 1994. Further, quantitative restrictions that were maintained for balance of payment reasons have been removed on all products including textile products by 31st March, 2001.

Leather goods export park in West Bengal

2477. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to set up a leather goods export park in West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details and proposed location of the same;

(c) whether there has been a demand to give a Special Economic Zone (SEZ) status to this proposed park; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Domestic and foreign companies in salt production

†2478. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of domestic and foreign companies/individuals involved in the production of salt at present;

(b) the details of per quintal cost of production of ordinary and iodised salt alongwith its export rates and domestic sale rates;

(c) the schemes being implemented by concerned factories for the welfare of the employees working in these salt factories;

(d) the extent of financial contribution being provided by Government therefor; and

(e) the number of persons rendered jobless so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) There are 10, 190 domestic individuals/salt works engaged in the production of salt in the country. No foreign company/individual is engaged in the production of salt in the country.

(b) Cost of production of salt; rates of domestic sale and exports are as under:

(Rs. per Quintal)

	Cost of production (Ex-works)	Rate of Domestic Sale	Rate of Exports
Common Salt	11-40	20-30	25-50
Iodised Salt	22-51	27-37	32-57

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.